

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

If ever there was a case for the FCC to take a principled stand, this is it. In the interest of America, you could step in and at least force Sinclair to allow equal time for response from Kerry's supporters. (Perhaps Micahel Moore's film "Fahrenheit 9/11" could air.) However, I have the distinct feeling that Michael Powell is too politically motivated to stand on principle. He'd rather take easy stands against Janet Jackson and Howard Stern. I am begging the FCC to stand up to corporate media on an issue that matters. Please move to block Sinclair's attempt to hijack the election.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.